

Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of )  
 )  
Section 63.71 Application of )  
 )  
Embarq Florida, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink ) WC Docket No. 20-\_\_\_\_  
 )  
For Authority Pursuant to Section 214 of the )  
Communications Act of 1934, As Amended, )  
to Grandfather a Telecommunications )  
Service )

**SECTION 63.71 APPLICATION**

Embarq Florida, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink (CenturyLink) (FRN: 0001-8252-98)<sup>1</sup> seeks authority pursuant to Section 63.71(k) of the Federal Communications Commission's (Commission) rules, 47 C.F.R. § 63.71(k), and Section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. § 214, to grandfather legacy voice service provided to existing customers (Affected Service) in a portion of its Florida service area.

CenturyLink submits the following information in support of its application:

**1. Name and address of carrier**

Embarq Florida, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink  
100 CenturyLink Drive  
Monroe, Louisiana 71203

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<sup>1</sup> Embarq Florida, Inc. is a subsidiary of CenturyLink, Inc. (FRN: 0018-6268-53).

**2. Date of planned service discontinuance, reduction or impairment**

As of June 1, 2020, or as soon thereafter as the necessary regulatory approvals can be obtained, CenturyLink will no longer offer the Affected Service to new customers in Ozello.<sup>2</sup> The proposed grandfathering will have no impact on existing customers of this service.

**3. Points of geographic areas of service affected**

CenturyLink seeks authority to grandfather the Affected Service in the Census blocks served by its remote terminal in Ozello, Florida, west of Crystal River, Florida (hereinafter, “Ozello”), as reflected in Attachments A and B.<sup>3</sup>

**4. Brief description of the types of services affected**

The Affected Service provides voice-grade telephonic communications channels that can be used to place or receive one call at a time and constitutes a “legacy voice service” pursuant to the Commission’s rules.<sup>4</sup> While Ozello includes roughly 450 households, only 12 of those households are currently served by CenturyLink.

The network transport facilities used to provide this service in Ozello have been in service a long time and cannot be repaired due to environmental restrictions and other considerations. CenturyLink is evaluating alternative future options, including options that

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<sup>2</sup> CenturyLink’s proposed grandfathering of this service includes two Census blocks—120174505001062 and 120174505001063—in which CenturyLink’s designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) for voice service is not subject to Commission forbearance. CenturyLink may seek approval from the Florida Public Service Commission to relinquish that designation. Alternatively, CenturyLink may satisfy the obligation through “resale of another carrier’s services[.]” 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1)(A).

<sup>3</sup> The map in Attachment A shows the affected geographic area. Attachment B provides a list of the affected Census blocks. Ozello is an unincorporated community in Citrus County, Florida, located between Crystal River and Homosassa on Florida’s gulf coast. USGS website, [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/f?p=gnispq:3:0::NO::P3\\_FID:294878](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/f?p=gnispq:3:0::NO::P3_FID:294878) (last visited Feb. 19, 2020).

<sup>4</sup> See 47 C.F.R. § 63.71(k).

would maintain service. First, it is possible that existing services may remain in place for quite some time (as long as existing transport facilities remain viable). Alternatively, it may make sense at some point (now or, more likely, in the future) to deploy new fiber transport facilities and attempt to compete for broadband customers throughout Ozello. Historically, CenturyLink has deployed fiber-fed broadband networks in ways that support voice service through either TDM or VoIP technology. However, any such network deployment and investment will present substantial and potentially unrecoverable cost, including installation of several miles of fiber and upgrade or replacement of numerous utility poles. Given these circumstances, CenturyLink believes it prudent to cease adding new customers in this area.

The public convenience and necessity will not be adversely affected by the proposed grandfathering, as potential customers of this service can seek alternative service arrangements from other providers that offer superior capabilities, including the option to bundle voice service with other services, including broadband, not available from CenturyLink in this area. Most notably, Charter offers gigabit broadband services in the affected service area, bundled with VoIP services, and the four largest mobile wireless providers (AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile, and Verizon) serve this area as well. Additionally, existing customers have been given significant notice of these changes.

In 2017, the Commission adopted a streamlined process for grandfathering legacy voice service and other low-speed legacy services, recognizing that “demand for these services is falling as consumers migrate to more advanced services that offer greater speed and functionality or to competitive alternatives such as IP or wireless.”<sup>5</sup> In this Application, CenturyLink seeks to

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<sup>5</sup> *Accelerating Wireline Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment*, Report and Order, Declaratory Ruling, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 32 FCC Rcd 11128, 11161 ¶ 84, 11164 ¶ 92 (footnote omitted) (2017), *subsequent history*

use that streamlined process to grandfather the Affected Service in Ozello, where most customers have already migrated to more advanced services.

**5. Brief description of the dates and methods of notice to all affected customers**

CenturyLink notified its customers of the planned grandfathering of the Affected Service in a letter sent via United Service Parcel Service or U.S. Mail on March 30, 2020. Those customers were notified that the proposed grandfathering would take effect on June 1, 2020, or as soon after that date as authorized by the relevant regulatory commissions. A copy of the form of customer notification letter CenturyLink used is appended hereto. (*See Attachment C.*)

**6. Whether the carrier is considered dominant or non-dominant with respect to the services to be discontinued, reduced or impaired**

CenturyLink is a non-dominant carrier with regard to the service to be grandfathered.

**7. Service**

In accordance with 47 C.F.R. § 63.71(a), CenturyLink has e-mailed a copy of this application to the Governor and public utility commission of Florida, and mailed a copy to the

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*omitted.* In a later order, the Commission established a new streamlined option for discontinuing legacy voice services as part of a technology transition, recognizing that “the number of switched access lines has ‘continued to plummet,’ while the ‘number of interconnected VoIP and mobile voice subscriptions have continued to climb.’ [Footnote omitted.]” *Accelerating Wireline Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment*, Order, 33 FCC Rcd 5660, 5673-74 ¶ 32 (2018), *subsequent history omitted.*

Special Assistant for Telecommunications under the Secretary of Defense.<sup>6</sup> There are no federally-recognized Tribal Nations with Tribal lands in the geographic areas identified in Paragraph 3 above.

Respectfully submitted,

**CENTURYLINK**

By: *Craig J Brown*  
*by mk*

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Its Attorney

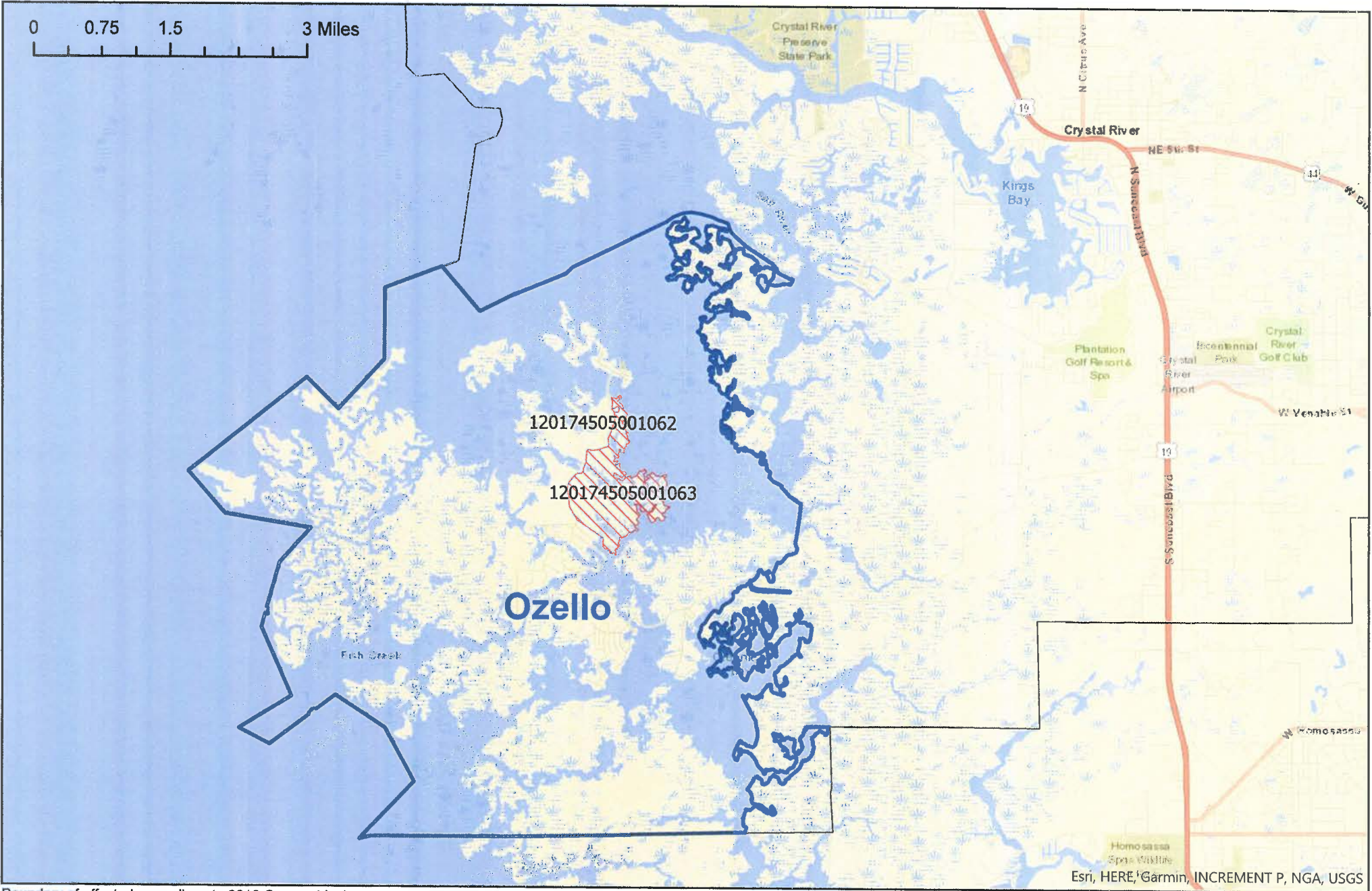
**DATE:** March 30, 2020

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<sup>6</sup> Section 63.71(a) directs applicants to submit a copy of the application to the Secretary of Defense, Special Assistant for Telecommunications. However, due to restructuring within the Department of Defense, that position no longer exists. Commission staff has advised that a copy of the application be sent instead to the Department of Defense Chief Information Officer.

# Attachment A Ozello Area, Citrus County, FL

Affected Area Wire Center Pending FL PSC Approval



Boundary of affected area aligns to 2010 Census blocks.

Attachment B  
Affected 2010 Census Blocks

<b>State</b>	<b>Census Block</b>	
FL	120174505001037	
FL	120174505001038	
FL	120174505001039	
FL	120174505001043	
FL	120174505001044	
FL	120174505001045	
FL	120174505001046	
FL	120174505001047	
FL	120174505001048	
FL	120174505001050	
FL	120174505001051	
FL	120174505001052	
FL	120174505001053	
FL	120174505001054	
FL	120174505001055	
FL	120174505001056	
FL	120174505001057	
FL	120174505001058	
FL	120174505001059	
FL	120174505001060	
FL	120174505001061	
FL	120174505001062	(Pending FL PSC Approval)
FL	120174505001063	(Pending FL PSC Approval)
FL	120174505001064	
FL	120174505001065	
FL	120174505001066	
FL	120174505001067	
FL	120174505001068	
FL	120174505001069	
FL	120174505001070	
FL	120174505001071	
FL	120174505001072	

Attachment B  
Affected 2010 Census Blocks

<b>State</b>	<b>Census Block</b>
FL	120174505001073
FL	120174505001074
FL	120174505001075
FL	120174505001076
FL	120174505001077
FL	120174505001078
FL	120174505001083
FL	120174505001084
FL	120174505001090
FL	120174505001095
FL	120174505001100
FL	120174505001101
FL	120174505001102
FL	120174505001104
FL	120174505001107
FL	120174505001108
FL	120174505001109
FL	120174505001112
FL	120174505001114
FL	120174505001115
FL	120174505001116
FL	120174505001117
FL	120174505001118
FL	120174505001119
FL	120174505001120
FL	120174505001121
FL	120174505001124
FL	120174505001125
FL	120174505001126
FL	120174505001128
FL	120174505001130
FL	120174505001135



Attachment B  
Affected 2010 Census Blocks

<b>State</b>	<b>Census Block</b>
FL	120174505001136
FL	120174505001137
FL	120174505001138
FL	120174505001139
FL	120174505001142
FL	120174505001143
FL	120174505001144
FL	120174505001145
FL	120174505001146
FL	120174505001147
FL	120174505001148
FL	120174505001149
FL	120174505001150
FL	120174505001152
FL	120174505001153
FL	120174505001154
FL	120174505001155
FL	120174505001156
FL	120174505001157
FL	120174505001158
FL	120174505001159
FL	120174505001160
FL	120174505001161
FL	120174505001166
FL	120174505001172
FL	120174517001011
FL	120174517001012
FL	120174517001013
FL	120174517001014
FL	120174517001015
FL	120174517001016
FL	120174517001017

Attachment B  
Affected 2010 Census Blocks

<b>State</b>	<b>Census Block</b>
FL	120174517001018
FL	120174517001019
FL	120174517001020
FL	120174517001021
FL	120174517001022
FL	120174517001023
FL	120174517001024
FL	120174517001025
FL	120174517001027
FL	120174517001028
FL	120174517001125
FL	120174517001126
FL	120174517001131
FL	120174517001133
FL	120174517001134
FL	120174517001135
FL	120174517001138
FL	120174517001139
FL	120174517001227



100 CenturyLink Drive  
Monroe, LA 71203

DATE

Customer Name  
Address 1  
Address 2  
City, State ZIP

**Important Notice Regarding the Plan of Embarq Florida, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink to Grandfather a Telecommunications Service**

Dear <Customer Name>,

At CenturyLink, our goal is to provide you with great quality and value in our world of changing technologies and market conditions. To do so, we continually evaluate our prices, product offerings and infrastructure. Occasionally our evaluation directs us to make changes to some products.

We are writing to inform you that Embarq Florida, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink plans to cease offering legacy voice service to new customers in the Census blocks served by its remote terminal in Ozello, Florida, west of Crystal River, Florida.<sup>1</sup> This service provides voice-grade telephonic communications channels that can be used to place or receive one call at a time.

We plan to make this change on June 1, 2020, subject to any necessary regulatory approvals, including from the Federal Communications Commission and the Florida Public Service Commission. (See the attached map of the affected geographic area and a list showing the affected Census blocks.) The company also plans to cease offering Lifeline discounts to any eligible, low-income customers in this area upon approval by the Florida Public Service Commission. Those discounts will remain available to qualifying customers from other Lifeline providers.

CenturyLink is taking this action because the network transport facilities used to provide CenturyLink's legacy voice service in the affected area are near the end of their service life and cannot be repaired due to environmental restrictions and other considerations. CenturyLink is evaluating alternative options to maintain service. Alternative voice services are available in this area from Spectrum and multiple wireless telephone providers, and they typically are offered with other services, including broadband, not available from CenturyLink in this area.

You are receiving this notice because you currently subscribe to CenturyLink legacy voice service in the affected area. Your CenturyLink service will not be affected by either the proposed grandfathering or the changes to CenturyLink's Lifeline service.

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<sup>1</sup> A Census block is a geographic unit used by the U.S. Census Bureau to identify geographic areas within the United States.

## ATTACHMENT C

Please contact Patty Schiefer at (352) 368-8706 if you have any questions about these changes.

Sincerely,

Danny Pate  
Vice President, Operations  
CenturyLink

**The following statement is required by the FCC:**

The FCC will normally authorize this proposed discontinuance of service (or reduction or impairment) unless it is shown that customers would be unable to receive service or a reasonable substitute from another carrier or that the public convenience and necessity is otherwise adversely affected. If you wish to object, you should file your comments as soon as possible, but no later than 10 days after the Commission releases public notice of the proposed discontinuance. You may file your comments electronically through the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System using the docket number established in the Commission's public notice for this proceeding, or you may address them to the Federal Communications Commission, Wireline Competition Bureau, Competition Policy Division, Washington, DC 20554, and include in your comments a reference to the § 63.71 Application of Embarq Florida, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink to Grandfather a Telecommunications Service. Comments should include specific information about the impact of this proposed discontinuance (or reduction or impairment) upon you or your company, including any inability to acquire reasonable substitute service.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Marjorie Herlth, do hereby certify that I have caused the foregoing **SECTION 63.71**

**APPLICATION** to be:

- 1) Filed with the Secretary of the FCC via ECFS (Inbox-Section 214 Domestic Discontinuance Application);
- 2) Served via first-class U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, or via email on the Governor of the State listed on the attached service list;
- 3) Served via first-class U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, or via email on the Public Utility Commission listed on the attached service list; and
- (4) Served via first-class U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, on the Special Assistant for Telecommunications under the Secretary of Defense<sup>1</sup>.

  
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Marjorie Herlth

March 30, 2020

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<sup>1</sup> Section 63.71(a) directs applicants to submit a copy of the application to the Secretary of Defense, Special Assistant for Telecommunications. However, due to restructuring within the Department of Defense, that position no longer exists. Commission staff has advised that a copy of the application be sent instead to the Department of Defense Chief Information Officer.

Ron DeSantis  
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Department of Defense  
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Florida Public Service Commission  
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